

FADE IN:

PROLOGUE

A crown comes up on the screen

V/O

What does royalty look like to you?

FADE TO:

INT. RESTAURANT - DAY

Uche sits in a booth scrolling through his phone when Anita slides into the booth

Anita

Yo, sorry I'm late

Uche

Are you ever early?

Anita

(sarcastically)

Ha ha ha. Very funny

Uche smiles and shakes her

Uche

How far now? How have you been?

Anita

I've been alright

Uche

How's school?

Anita

Omo, it's a lot but we thank God. We move by God's grace

Uche

What do they even teach you in art school?

Anita

Actually, I'm taking art history this semester and we had a very
interesting class yesterday

Uche
Tell me about it

Anita
Are you sure?

Uche
Yeah, let me learn something new today

Anita
Alright. So, they taught us about the seven wonders of art in
Nigeria. They're widely considered the greatest works of art to come
out of Nigeria. And, here's what's weird about it. The lecturer had
all these popular works of art on the list, right? Then he gets to
number seven and you'll never believe what it is. It's a crown of
thorns

Uche's brows furrow

Uche
Ehn?

Anita
Yeah, and that's not even the weird part. According to the lecturer,
there's absolutely no information on the artist who sculpted it or
made it or whatever. All they know is that they found it in some
church in-

Uche
Osun state

Anita
...yeah. How'd you know?
Uche laughs and looks away, remembering something

Uche

Wow

Anita

What?

Uche looks back at her

Uche

I know the person who made it

Anita

Ehn?

Uche

Well, okay, I don't know the person who made it but I know the story
of how it was made

Anita laughs and tsks at him

Anita

Abeg

Uche

No, I'm serious

Anita

You can't know, the crown is older than you

Uche

Yeah, obviously. My great-grandmother told me the story and she's
really old. Nobody knows her real age. My dad even says that he
thinks she may be old enough to have met Methuselah

Anita laughs

Anita

Oya tell me the story

Uche

So, once upon a time, in some remote village in Osun state, there was this girl. Her parents were very poor. Like, dirt poor. The closest school to their village was like a two-kilometre trek and her parents couldn't afford it so they said she should learn a skill. She told them she wanted to learn carpentry. They were surprised but she was adamant that it was what she wanted so they set her up to be an apprentice with a local carpenter. It was she and a boy who were doing the apprenticeship and they became good friends. Unfortunately for them, the carpenter's shop was on the way to the school and it was an open shed. And kids can be mean

CUT TO:

EXT. CARPENTER'S SHED - FLASHBACK

Uche (cont.d) V/O

So whenever the children were passing, they always made fun of them.

It never bothered her but, the boy? Woof. He hated it. He would always get so angry. He'd say that this wasn't how he pictured life would be because he felt he was meant for greatness and they even always said in church that God meant us to be kings on the earth and we were supposed to reign but there he was, an apprentice in a carpenter's shop, living a life he felt was headed nowhere (beat) She hated seeing him like that so she always tried to cheer him up.

Some days it worked. On other days, it didn't.

As Uche narrates, we see a boy and a girl (Sola) in a carpenter's shed. They're working when some children in uniforms point and laugh at them. The boy wants to chase after them but Sola stops him. He yells at them to leave. When they go, the boy crumbles on the floor with his head on his arms while Sola tries to console him. When Uche says, "She hated seeing him like that so she always tried to cheer him up", we see her mouthing something and smiling. When he says, "Some days it worked", we see the boy look up with a frown. When he says, "On other days, it didn't", the boy just walks away.

CUT TO:

EXT. CARPENTER'S SHED - FLASHBACK

Uche (cont.d) V/O

Then one day, he just stopped showing up.

Sola is alone in the shed when the children come to make fun of her. When they leave, she looks around at the space where the boy usually works. She stops working and sits down with a dejected look on her face. The shop owner enters and sees her

Shop Owner

Ahn, what's wrong?

She just looks in the direction of where the boy normally works

Shop Owner

Oh, I see

He sits beside her

Shop Owner

You know, I used to pretend that I didn't hear him whenever he complained. But I knew he wasn't happy here

Sola

So you sent him away?

Shop Owner

No o. He came in earlier this morning and said he wasn't doing again.

Even stormed out

Sola

...Why shouldn't I follow in his footsteps?

Shop Owner

If you're talking about leaving, nothing is stopping you. But if you're talking about leaving because you think you're better than this, I'd think twice if I were you. And I'm not just saying that because this is my shop. You see, greatness doesn't always look like greatness. Especially at the beginning. Rome wasn't built in a day, you know. And most great cities you see now were once thick animal-infested bushes. But every great thing starts with a vision and that vision gives you the passion and the drive you need to

follow through. Of course, when you add God's help, nothing is impossible. If you want to be great, all you need is a glorious vision and once you have that, you're already halfway there
Sola looks down at her hands and the shop owner pats her on the back

Shop Owner

But for now, there's work to be done
She looks at him and smiles

Anita V/O

What happened next?

Uche V/O

Well, one day, not long after that, she was in church on a Sunday

CUT TO:

INT. VILLAGE CHURCH - DAY

We see the pastor addressing the congregation, mostly pointing his hands towards the altar and the environs, though not speaking audibly.

Uche V/O

The pastor said he didn't like how the church looked and urged members to donate decorations to beautify it because it was the house of God. Right there, from her seat in the congregation, Sola saw Jesus at the back of the altar hanging on a cross with a crown of thorns on his head. She was so excited that she got wood and started working on the crown of thorns that she saw on Jesus' head.

SHOT: The camera zooms in on Sola in church as Uche narrates and we see the light shining on Sola's face.

CUT TO:

INT. RESTAURANT - PRESENT DAY

Uche and B are still discussing

Uche

Before the next service, she went to the church and hung the crown behind the altar where she saw the vision. Now, this next part is where it gets crazy.

Anita adjusts on her seat.

Uche (cont'd)

Every Sunday, a woman would come with her daughter to clean the church. The daughter would sweep while the mother went around the church praying for the service and the church members. On this Sunday, the daughter was sweeping as usual when the mother called her attention and asked when the church got a crown of thorns at the back of the altar. Do you want to know the crazy part?

Anita

What?

Uche

The woman had been blind for years

Anita

So how did she-

Anita's eyes widen

Anita

Woah!

Uche

I know. And that wasn't the only testimony. People saw that crown of thorns and got their healing, deliverance... a lot of people got convicted and gave their lives to Christ. It brought people from far and wide to the church. While some people just came for admiration.

Anita

Wow... what was her name?

Uche

Nobody knows. She never took credit for it. Maybe she was satisfied just knowing about the great things God was doing through the work of her hands

Anita

That's crazy

There's a pause, then Anita laughs

Uche

What's funny?

Anita

Maybe your great-grandmother is the artist

Uche smiles

Uche

Maybe